Welcome Walk
We are excited to host our Welcome Walk on Thursday, September 1 from 9:30 AM-12 PM. Your child will meet their teacher for the new school year when the teacher drops by your home for a brief “door visit” to introduce themselves and welcome your family.

If you are not home during the Welcome Walk, the teachers will leave a door hanger that contains the teacher assignment and class information. Out of area students will receive a telephone “visit”. First day packets will also be delivered, if you are home. Please call the school by 4:00 PM, on Tuesday, August 30th, if you will not be home and do not want the hanger left on your door.

Sixth grade students who have not provided documentation of receiving the Tdap booster will not be assigned to a class or receive a visit.

Classroom Visits/Supply Pickup/Drop Off
Students can bring their school supplies and visit their classrooms for the first time on Thursday, September 1 from 4:45-5:30 PM. Pre-packaged school supplies will be ready for pick-up for those families who ordered them last spring starting at 4:45 PM. If you did not pre-order supplies, supply lists are available on the school website and in the front office. If you did not receive your child’s “First Day Packet” during the Welcome Walk, these packets will be available during the Classroom Visit. If you do not receive the packet that day, it will be sent home with your child the first day of school.

During 4:45-5:30 PM on September 1st, you will also be able to drop off medication at the school clinic and put money on your child’s lunch account in the cafeteria.

Welcome Back Picnic
This is a VRES tradition! The PTA will sponsor a gathering near the blacktop on Thursday, September 1st from 5:00-7:00 PM. There will be activities for the children. Families are invited to bring a picnic supper or pick up a bag meal of a Chick-Fil-A sandwich, chips, and drink free courtesy of the PTA and VRES. Families are encouraged to bring a dessert to share.

Back to School Night
Back to School Night will be held Thursday, September 8th for K-6. At 6:30 PM, parents will have an opportunity to “Meet the Specialists” and our Principal, Laraine Edwards, and Assistant Principal, Jason Skerker in the library. Classroom presentations will begin at 7:00 PM.
New Parent Coffee
On Friday, September 16, from 9:15 until 10:30 AM, the PTA and administrators will host a coffee for parents new to Virginia Run Elementary School in the cafeteria. You will have the opportunity to meet Mrs. Edwards, Principal, Mr. Skerker, Assistant Principal, Mrs. Leonard and Mrs. Habermeyer, our counselors. Our PTA members will be available to answer any questions about the community and to offer assistance to new families. Please RSVP by calling the main office at 703-988-8900. We hope to see you there.

Arrival
Students should report to school no earlier than 9:00 AM. Students, except for Kindergarten students, will go directly to the classrooms on arrival. **Students who are not in their classroom by 9:15 AM will be marked tardy.** During the first week of school, staff members will be available to assist students in locating their classrooms. **Kindergarten students will go to the cafeteria where they will be met by kindergarten instructional assistants and walked to class.**

Transportation
You will receive the schedule of bus routes from your child’s teacher during the Welcome Walk. Please note that some bus routes may have changed since last year. Review the route and number with your child so they board the correct bus. Please report to the bus stop five minutes before the listed time.

Students are required to board and depart the bus at the stop nearest to their home to prevent overcrowding on buses. Any changes require permission from the school office. Please be patient with any changes or delays in the transportation schedule as some needed adjustments are made during the first week of school. **(Kindergarten parents: If transported, kindergarten students must be met at the bus stop each afternoon by a parent, parent designee, or a responsible middle school or older sibling, and asked for by name at the bus door.)**

Please notify the office, in writing, of child care plans resulting in your child having a bus stop other than the one closest to your home. We need this information as soon as possible in order to assure correct transportation information.

Staff members will be on hand to assist, in the mornings 9:00 AM until 9:15 AM. Children should be in their classroom by 9:15 AM. **Please remember our tardy bell rings at 9:15 AM. Tardy students should be accompanied into the office by a parent or guardian.**

Please treat our staff members monitoring Kiss N’ Ride respectfully. Remember that Kiss N’ Ride is offered as a courtesy to our parents and these staff members make it possible to offer this service.

Car riders must use the Kiss N’ Ride area in front of the school. For safety reasons, the side driveway (bus area) is restricted to bus traffic in the morning and afternoon. Parents are not permitted to use the side driveway. Dropping your child off in the side parking lot presents a safety hazard for students, staff, and vehicles.
**Breakfast/Lunch**

Breakfast is served at VRES. Students will be able to pick up a “Grab and Go” breakfast for $1.75. Students on free or reduced meals receive breakfast for free. The price for a school lunch will be $3.00 including milk. Milk may be purchased separately and costs $.60. Lunch will be served beginning Tuesday, September 6th. Breakfast will begin being served on Thursday, September 8th.

You may deposit money into your child’s lunch account during the classroom visit in the cafeteria, or by sending a check made payable to *Virginia Run Food Service* the first day of school. Money can be added to the account at any time during the year. You may also pay for your child’s lunch card online at [www.myschoolbucks.com](http://www.myschoolbucks.com). Any available balance that remained in the student’s account in June will automatically carry over to this year.

Forms inviting qualifying families to apply for reduced prices were mailed to homes in August. Forms may be requested confidentially through the main office.

**Wednesday Envelope**

Please read over the contents of the envelope carefully. Inside you will find valuable information and forms which need to be returned to school. The Wednesday Envelope is our communication link with you. The Wednesday Envelope is a bright yellow envelope that students will take home every Wednesday. In the envelope you will find fliers, schoolwork samples and other school communications. Parents are asked to remove and read the contents, sign the front of the envelope, and help students remember to return it to school the next day.

**News You Choose (VRES Newsletter)**

News You Choose will provide you with important information from the school and PTA events. You are automatically signed up for News You Choose with the email that was supplied at registration. You can opt out of News You Choose at any time by clicking on the opt out option at the bottom of the email. Please take time to read it. If you do not have access to the Internet, please let the office know.

**Student Information System Parent Account (SIS)**

The SIS (Student Information System) Parent Account is an online tool parents can use to access information about their child’s attendance, class schedule and performance, discipline incidents, health information, and more.

The secure account offers parents the ability to use one username and password login for both the SIS Parent Account and FCPS 24-7 Learning (Blackboard). Parents will continue to access FCPS 24-7 Learning via the URL [http://fcps.blackboard.com](http://fcps.blackboard.com). Upon login, they will find assignments and course information, weCare@school (for emergency care forms), and Family Connection (goal setting and college and career resources) for their students.

All schools will be online allowing all parents access to their child’s information. Parents new to Virginia Run will receive a letter in the mail with instructions on how to create an account. Information parents will be able to access includes:
Virginia Run Elementary Welcome Information
http://www.fcps.edu/VirginiaRunES/

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- Attendance.
- Class schedules (elementary will only show homeroom teacher).
- Grade book, including assignments, quizzes, and tests with scores (high school and secondary schools).
- Health information.
- Discipline incidents.

In addition, parents will also be able to view school information, including teacher e-mail addresses, the FCPS calendar, and emergency contact information.

Emergency Care Card Form
This form is our “lifeline”. We cannot emphasize enough the importance of having accurate, up-to-date parent information on this form. Your child’s well-being at school depends on it!

We appreciate your assistance in providing complete and current information. You will have two options in returning your emergency care information form:

1. Option #1 the first Wednesday folder will contain a pre-printed form. Please look it over very carefully, make any changes necessary, sign, date and return to your child’s teacher no later than Friday, September 9th.
2. Option #2 make changes online via weCare@School (you must have an SIS Parent Account), print a copy and return it to your child’s teacher no later than Friday, September 9th.

If you do not have access to email, please let the main office know so we can use alternative methods to contact you.

We will not release any child to any adult other than the parent/guardian or persons listed on the emergency care form. Please list several friends and/or relatives whom we may contact in the event of an emergency if we cannot reach you at home or work. Do not list pager numbers unless you will be able to return our call promptly. We greatly appreciate your cooperation in completing this form.

Keep in Touch (KIT)
Keep in Touch (KIT) is a school-home communication system for parents, students, and community members that enable families to receive timely information from the school system and from individual schools. KIT messages are sent when there is an emergency or an unusual situation at a school as well as for routine messages.

In addition, all FCPS schools will be using the Keep in Touch system to send attendance and low lunch money account notification messages to parents. It is very important to update your Keep in Touch information. Families have two options:
Virginia Run Elementary Welcome Information

1. Fill out or update your child’s emergency care card form and return it to school.
2. Update your child’s emergency care contact information via weCare@School, (you must have a Parent View account.)

**weCare@school/ ParentVue**
weCare@school is a program within the SIS ParentVue which enables parents to securely access and update the emergency care information for their children. It also enables first responders, to emergency situations in schools, to securely access emergency care information on students via wireless, handheld devices.

For your convenience many FCPS forms, can be found on the internet (see website links below). Choose the form you need, complete it, print it, and send it in with your child. This will save time if you need to complete forms for more than one child.

**Required forms:**

- Emergency Care Information Form
- Health Information Form (Grades 1-6)

**Clinic Health forms (if applicable)**

- Medication Authorization Form
- Student Use of Inhalers Form
- Student Use of Epi-Pen Form

**Parent Information regarding Student Opt-Out Rights and Choices (if needed)**

- General Opt-Out Information for Parents
- FLE Opt-Out Forms

**Other Resources:**

- Lunch Money Account
- Keep In Touch (KIT)
- Parent View Account Information
- Student Insurance Information
- Free and Reduced Lunch Application
Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

Students and staff greatly appreciate the support we receive from the PTA. All parents are encouraged to join the PTA and help make the 2016-2017 school year successful for all students.

For a list of the current PTA officers and to stay informed regarding all upcoming PTA activities, visit the PTA website at www.vrespta.org.

Parents will be able to join the PTA at the Welcome Back Picnic and purchase spirit wear at Back to School Night.

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**Important Dates**

- **September 1** Welcome Walk, 9:30-12:00 PM
- **September 1** Classroom Visits/Supply Pickup/Drop Off, 4:45-5:30 PM
- **September 1** Back to School Picnic, 5:00-7:00 PM
- **September 6** First Day of School
- **September 8** K-6 Back to School Night:
  - 6:30 PM Meet the Specialist
  - 7:00 PM Classroom Visit
- **September 16** New Parent Coffee, 9:15 AM